

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 579

To amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to make available to Federal employees the option of obtaining health benefits coverage for dependent parents.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2001

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. THOMAS M. DAVIS of Virginia, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. WEINER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. HILLIARD, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to make available to Federal employees the option of obtaining health benefits coverage for dependent parents.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Family Health
5 Coverage Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. NEW ENROLLMENT OPTION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 8905 of
3 title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

4 “(a) An employee may enroll in an approved health
5 benefits plan described by section 8903 or 8903a either—

6 “(1) as an individual;

7 “(2) for self and family; or

8 “(3) for self and extended family.”.

9 (b) MEMBER OF EXTENDED FAMILY DEFINED.—
10 Section 8901 of title 5, United States Code, is amended
11 by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (10), by strik-
12 ing the period at the end of paragraph (11) and inserting
13 “; and”, and by adding at the end the following:

14 “(12) ‘member of the extended family’ means,
15 with respect to an employee or annuitant, any indi-
16 vidual who is—

17 “(A) a member of the family of such em-
18 ployee or annuitant; or

19 “(B) a dependent parent of such employee
20 or annuitant.”.

21 (c) TEST FOR DEPENDENCY OF A PARENT.—Para-
22 graph (9) of section 8901 of title 5, United States Code,
23 is amended by striking “(9)” and inserting “(9)(A)”, by
24 inserting “and” after the semicolon, and by adding at the
25 end the following:

1 “(B) ‘dependent’, in the case of any parent,
 2 means a parent at least half of whose support is
 3 contributed by the employee or annuitant involved,
 4 as determined under regulations prescribed by the
 5 Office, but does not include an individual who—

6 “(i) is entitled to benefits under part A of
 7 title XVIII of the Social Security Act; or

8 “(ii) has adequate health benefits under
 9 another group health plan, as determined under
 10 such regulations;”.

11 **SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF GOVERNMENT CONTRIBU-**
 12 **TIONS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 8906(a)
 14 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

15 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
 16 graph (A);

17 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
 18 paragraph (B) and inserting “; and”; and

19 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
 20 lowing:

21 “(C) enrollments under this chapter for self and
 22 extended family.”.

23 (b) FIRST-YEAR RULE.—The Office of Personnel
 24 Management shall by regulation establish the method by
 25 which the provisions of section 8906 of title 5, United

1 States Code, relating to computation of Government con-
2 tributions, shall be applied in connection with coverage for
3 self and extended family during the first year in which
4 such coverage is provided.

5 **SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

6 Title 5, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in section 8902(e) by striking “exclusive of
8 family members,” and inserting “exclusive of family
9 members and dependent parents,”;

10 (2) in subsections (g), (j) and (k)(1) of section
11 8902, section 8902a(a)(1)(B), and section 8903(1)
12 by inserting “dependent parent,” after “family mem-
13 ber,” each place it appears;

14 (3)(A) in section 8903(1) and the first sentence
15 of section 8913(c) by inserting “dependent parents,”
16 after “members of their families,”;

17 (B) in section 8903(3) by striking “and mem-
18 bers of their families,” and inserting “members of
19 their families, and their dependent parents,”; and

20 (C) in section 8903a(b)(4) by striking “fami-
21 lies.” and inserting “families and their dependent
22 parents.”;

23 (4) in subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 8905
24 by inserting “or extended family” after “family”;

1 (5) in section 8905(e) by adding at the end the
2 following: “The Office shall by regulation ensure
3 that the purposes of this subsection continue to be
4 carried after coverage for self and extended family
5 becomes available under this chapter.”;

6 (6) in section 8906(e)(1)(A) and the second
7 sentence of 8913(c) by inserting “or dependent par-
8 ents” after “family”; and

9 (7) in section 8907(b) by inserting “or depend-
10 ent parents” after “family members” each place it
11 appears.

12 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

13 The amendments made by this Act shall apply with
14 respect to coverage during years beginning at least 6
15 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

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